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BY BRUCE W. MUNN

UNITED NATIONS (UPI) -- THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES SOUGHT AGREEMENT TODAY TO AVOID A SUPERPOWER VETO ON THE MAKEUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE CONTROVERSY HINGED ON A SOVIET-BACKED CALL FOR A POLISH CONTINGENT TO BE ADDED TO A CANADIAN LOGISTICS UNIT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR THE 7,000-MEMBER PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP FLEW FROM OTTAWA TODAY TO CONFER WITH U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ON THE ISSUE. DIPLOMATS AGREED THE FUTURE OF THE U.N. MIDDLE EAST OPERATION HINGED ON THE OUTCOME OF THEIR TALKS.

THE EIGHT NONALIGNED NATIONS IN THE 15-MEMBER SECURITY COUNCIL PUT FORWARD THE PROPOSAL THURSDAY NIGHT AFTER DAY-LONG PRIVATE MEETINGS.

THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED THE PLAN BUT THE SOVIET UNION, PUSHING EASTERN EUROPEAN REPRESENTATION IN THE PEACE FORCE, SUPPORTED IT.

U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN SCALI SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT A "RETROACTIVE VETO" TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CANADIANS AGREED TO LAST SATURDAY.

BOTH NIKOLAI N. LOGINOV, COUNCILOR IN THE SOVIET DELEGATION, AND SCALI AGREED THE ISSUE WAS SUBJECT TO VETO AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETER JANYOVICH OF AUSTRIA CALLED THE BODY INTO PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS TODAY TO AVERT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

THE NONALIGNED PROPOSAL INCLUDED POLAND AMONG EIGHT ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES WHOSE TROOPS WOULD BE ADDED TO THE FORCES OF AUSTRIA, FINLAND, IRELAND AND SWEDEN THAT NOW MAKE UP THE U.N. MIDDLE EAST PEACE FORCE.

THE NONALIGNED GROUPS SAID THE POLISH FORCE, AS SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIETS, BE COMBINED WITH THE CANADIANS IN THE LOGISTIC UNIT THAT WOULD TAKE CARE OF TRANSPORTATION, MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL SERVICING OF FORCES ON DUTY BETWEEN ISRAELI AND ARAB TROOPS.

UPI.11-02 05:24 AES